

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC VS

SUBJECT: MAY 12: AMCIT RANDOLPH AND FAMILY DEPART SAIGON

SUMMARY: AMCIT CLIFFORD W. RANDOLPH (64) AND DEPENDENTS SU YEN WONG RANDOLPH (WIFE) AND NANCY RANDY WONG RANDOLPH (DAUGHTER) ARRIVED IN BANGKOK MAY 12 FROM SAIGON ABOARD THE FRENCH AIRLIFT.

1. RANDOLPH, A FORMER CONTRACTOR WHO LIVED IN VIETNAM FOR 14 YEARS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS EXPELLED PROBABLY FOR MEDICAL REASONS. HE SAID BOTH HE AND LORENZO JUDSON, WHO ARRIVED IN BANGKOK LAST WEEK, WERE ASSISTED BY INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OFFICIALS INSAIGON IN SEEKING EXIT ON GROUNDS OF HEALTH.

2. RANDOLPH, WHO IS SUFFERING FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, SAID HE WAS GIVEN LESS THAN 24 HOURS NOTICE THAT HE WAS TO BE EXPELLED. HE SAID HE SAW AMCIT YEE LEONG CHING IN SAIGON ON MORNING OF 12 MAY BUT OPINED THAT CHING UNLIKELY TO BE ALLOWED OUT WITH HIS WIFE AND VIETNAMESE CHILDREN. RANDOLPH SAID ONLY AMERICAN HE KNEW TO BE IN POOR HEALTH WAS JOSE RIOS, WHO ALSO HAD VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS AND IS IN INCREASINGLY POOR MENTAL CONDITION DUE TO FAILURE TO EFFECT EXIT FROM VIETNAM.

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3. BY HIS OWN ROUGH ESTIMATE RANDOLPH SAID HE THOUGHT

THERE WERE UPWARDS OF 1,000 FORMER AMERICAN SERVICEMEN STILL IN SAIGON, MANY OF THEM BLACKS. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN NUMEROUS AMERICANS WALKING AROUND SAIGON IN RECENT MONTHS, LIVING COMPLETELY OFF THE ECONOMY AND NOT BOTHERED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. RANDOLPH SAID HE KNEW OF NO AMERICANS IN PRISON.

4. RECOUNTING HIS ATTEMPTS TO FIND MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR HIS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND STOMACH PROBLEMS, RANDOLPH SAID HE VISITED A LARGE HOSPITAL IN CHOLON IN APRIL FOR AN X-RAY. HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THERE WERE NO X-RAY TECHNICIANS. WHEN HE TRIED TO SEE A PHYSICIAN HE WAS TOLD THEY HAD ALL GONE AWAY FOR "RE-EDUCATION." HE SAID NURSES AND ORDERLIES WERE HANDLING ALL MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND ADDED THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE MEDICINE AVAILABLE.

5. RANDOLPH SAID HIS CHINESE WIFE HAD FRIENDS IN SAIGON WHO TOLD OF FREQUENT ROAD INTERDICTION BETWEEN SAIGON AND DALAT AND CONSTANT INTERDICTION ON THE ROAD TO BAN ME THOUT BY ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FORCES. HE HAD NO DETAILS BUT SAID VEGETABLES, TRADITIONALLY BROUGHT IN FROM DALAT, WERE INCREASINGLY HARD TO FIND IN SAIGON.

6. IN MID-APRIL THE CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION IN SAIGON TOLD RANDOLPH THAT AFTER THE 25 MAY ELECTIONS MANY AMERICANS WOULD BE LEAVING SAIGON. RANDOLPH COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NO OTHER EVIDENCE THAT OTHERS WOULD BE FOLLOWING HIM SOON. BUT HE SAID EVERYBODY WANTED TO GET OUT.

7. COMMENT. RANDOLPH IS TIRED AND UNWELL AND HAS SPENT MORE THAN A YEAR TRYING TO GET HIS FAMILY AND HIMSELF OUT OF SAIGON TO THE VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF EVERYTHING ELSE. HE APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE, OR INTEREST, IN CURRENT EVENTS OR IN THE NEW RULERS OF SOUTH VIETNAM. HE IS ONLY AMERICAN EXITING SAIGON IN PAST YEAR WHO HAS ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AMERICANS REMAINING AT 1000. UNLESS OTHER EVIDENCE IS DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW, WE DO NOT RPT NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY BUT REPORT IT AS RANDOLPH MAY USE THIS FIGURE WITH THE PRESS.

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